

The St. John Standard

VOL. VIII. NO. 220

SEVENTY-TWO PAGES

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 9, 1916.

WEATHER—FAIR

PRICE TWO CENTS

ASQUITH DECLARES HE WAS VICTIM OF A COMBINATION

RUSSO-ROUMANIAN TROOPS STILL RETREATING BEFORE THE TEUTONIC ONSLAUGHT

Enemy Makes Desperate Attack on Moldavian Front But is Unable to Break Through.

Russians Take Offensive in Carpathians — Germans Gain Foothold in French Trenches but Soon Driven Out.

Petrograd, Dec. 8, via London, 4.50 p. m.—Roumanian and Russian troops in Wallachia are continuing the retreatment begun at the time of the occupation of Bucharest, the war office announced today. Teutonic forces have attacked on the Moldavian front, in the Otuz Valley, but have been unable to break the line.

The official statement reads: "Roumanian front: In the Otuz Valley enemy attacks were beaten back. In Wallachia, following the occupation of Bucharest, the Roumanians and our own troops continued to retreat. In Dobruja and on the Danube calm prevails."

Russians Take Offensive. The Russians have taken the offensive in the wooded Carpathians district, and a battle is in progress there, the war office announced today.

The text reads: "On the Goulinza-Penlati front the enemy bombarded our positions with mines of powerful destructive effect."

"In the region of Poturi and Binkalany rifle and artillery fire of great intensity is proceeding. In the wooded Carpathians our de-

tachments have taken the offensive at the height of five versts south of Javnik.

"The battle is continuing with the result not yet known. "Eight versts northeast of Torong Mountain our scouts attacked an enemy ambush and dispersed it."

Germans Gain Offset. Paris, Dec. 8.—The Germans, southeast of St. Mihiel, in the forest of Apremont, by an attack today succeeded in gaining a foothold in French trenches, but later were forced to give up their gain, according to the official communication issued tonight. The communication says:

"On the front of the Somme artillery activity of rather considerable proportions is reported in the sector of Bouchavesnes and in front of Blaches."

"In the forest of Apremont, in the course of an attack this morning, the enemy gained a foothold in some trenches. Through a spirited counter-attack our troops ejected the Germans immediately."

"On the remainder of the front there is nothing to report."

Belgian communication: "Nothing of especial interest has occurred on the Belgian front."

ASQUITH TELLS THE STORY OF BRITISH CABINET DIFFERENCES; ALLEGES A PLOT AGAINST HIM

Although He Acquits Lloyd George and Associates of Any Part in It—Will Continue to Lead Liberal Party.

Viscount Grey Announces that A. J. Balfour will Become Foreign Secretary with Lord Robert Cecil as the Under-Secretary.

London, Dec. 8.—Premier Asquith was the only speaker at the meeting of the Liberal party, at the Reform Club this afternoon. He said his colleagues had acted according to their own dictates, in no way were they persuaded by the action he had taken in resigning.

The ex-premier emphasized the necessity and importance of giving strenuous adherence to whatever government was in power for the purpose of bringing about what all desired—the winning of the war.

Herbert H. Asquith declared that although he had resigned the premiership he had not given up the leadership of the Liberal party. The former premier, who looked remarkably well, said there had been a carefully engineered campaign against him, but he acquitted Mr. Lloyd George and his other associates in the retiring government of complicity therein.

On Friday of last week, Mr. Asquith said, he received Mr. Lloyd George's proposal for a similar "war council." The same day he replied that the prime minister must preside over such a body. Mr. Lloyd George did not agree to this, and on Sunday the Unionist members intimated they had a meeting at which they decided they could not remain in the government if he did, and that if he did not resign they would. He saw Mr. Lloyd George later and, being desirous of maintaining unity of the government, appealed to Mr. Bonar Law to remain in office.

They had a conversation and attempted to accommodate their views as to the relationship between the premier and the war council, and as to the personnel of the council. On these two points they differed, and the difference of opinion was strong and sharp.

An arrangement was then suggested that the premier should control the war policy of the government, that the war council should submit its decisions to him, and that the agenda of the war council should be submitted to him. No agreement was reached, and he undertook to write Mr. Lloyd George the next day, giving him his decision in the matter.

The next morning he found a statement in the newspapers that the premier was to be excluded from the war council. He believed there had been a breach of confidence, although he accepted Mr. Lloyd George's disclaimer. He wrote Mr. Lloyd George that he was not prepared to remain in the cabinet, as a spectator of the war, and that it was not possible to have a war council without the premier as chairman. After consulting with his friends he resigned.

He has since been asked, he continues, how he is getting on. He is home on furlough, and left last night for Calgary to rejoin his family.

Home From Etaples. Nursing Sister M. E. Smith, who has been engaged in looking after the suffering and wounded in No. 1 Canadian General Hospital, Etaples, France, told The Standard that despite the words that some of the patients who have come under her notice in the hospital have received, they were not at all pessimistic. She will return from Quebec the first of the week.

G. A. Farmer was the most afflicted man to return. He had to be carried from the steamer on a stretcher. He has lost the use of his limbs from paralysis.

Another unfortunate man to return was Private Sydney A. Howell of the 25th Battalion of Regina. His left arm is partially disabled, and he is compelled to walk with crutches on account of a wound he received in the thigh.

London, Dec. 8.—The following statement on the Greek situation, which is authorized by Viscount Grey of Fallodon, British secretary for foreign affairs, has been handed to the Associated Press:

"It sometimes has been said, not by our enemies but by critics in neutral countries who are not too well disposed towards us, that our presence in Greece does not differ appreciably from the presence of the Germans in Belgium. By this it is not meant to suggest that our troops have been guilty of the excesses and atrocities which are now reaching their climax in the Belgian deportations, but that the landing of our troops at Salonika can no more be defended from a juristic point of view than the German invasion by way of Lieke in August, 1914."

"At this period of the war the position of Belgium before the German invasion needs no further explanation. The ablest historians have made it perfectly clear that the neutrality of Belgium was guaranteed by certain powers, one of whom was Germany; that Germany, on the desirous pretext that she must have to meet a French invasion through Belgium, first delivered to that country an ultimatum requiring her to allow the unhindered passage of German troops, and that then, on the demand being met with an unqualified refusal, (Belgium's only possible reply consonant with loyalty to her other guarantors) she proceeded to occupy the country, with the results which are only too well known to us all."

WASHINGTON FORMALLY PROTESTS AGAINST THE ENSLAVING OF BELGIANS

"Contrary to all Precedent and Humane Principles of International Practice" is Tenor of the Note.

United States Also Objects to Germany's Submarine Activities—Likely that President Wilson Will Write Some More Notes.

Washington, Dec. 8.—A note to Germany protesting against the deportation of Belgians for forced labor, as contrary to all precedents and humane principles of international practice, was made public tonight by the state department.

The note was cabled to Charge Grew, at Berlin, on Nov. 29, the day Ambassador Gerard discussed the subject with President Wilson, with instructions that he read it to the German chancellor personally. In making it public the state department announced that the interview had taken place, but said nothing about results.

The decision to protest formally against the treatment of the Belgians followed unsuccessful informal efforts by Charge Grew, under instructions that he said informally to the Berlin foreign office that the deportations were having a most unfavorable effect upon neutrals, particularly the United States. The charge was informed, in reply that the policy was adopted as a military necessity, and that Germany regarded it as legal.

The note, with the department's statement, making it public, follows: "On Nov. 29 Mr. Grew, our charge at Berlin, was directed to obtain an interview with the German chancellor and read to him the following: "The government of the United States has learned, with the greatest concern and regret, of the policy of the German government to deport from Belgium a portion of the civilian population for the purpose of forcing them to labor in Germany, and is constrained to protest, in a friendly spirit but most solemnly against this action, which is in contravention of all precedents and of those humane principles of international practice which have long been accepted and followed by civilized nations in their treatment of non-combatants."

"Furthermore, the government of the United States is convinced that the effect of this policy, if pursued, will, in all probability, be fatal to the Belgian relief work, so humanely planned and so successfully carried out, a result which will be greatly deplored and which, it is assumed, would seriously embarrass the German government."

"The interview has taken place."

KENT COUNTY MATTER BEFORE GOVERNMENT Dismissal of George N. Clark Discussed Yesterday Afternoon — Minor Appointments Made.

The provincial government met here yesterday.

George N. Clark, who was formerly liquor license inspector for the County of Kent and was dismissed from office some time ago, was heard with reference to his removal, which was stated in the "Royal Gazette" to be "for cause." Mr. Clark wished an investigation into the matter as he considered the expression to be a reflection upon his integrity. It was explained that this was not intended, as his removal was not in consequence of any reasons which reflected upon his handling of any moneys under the Liquor Act, nor upon his integrity in any way, but solely because there was at the time considerable public protest in the county against the manner in which the act was being enforced in certain cases where public opinion believed the persons prosecuted to be innocent. This caused the local representatives to recommend that the administration of the law be placed in other hands.

George M. McDade and Leo Dolan were appointed official reporters of the house for the approaching session.

Miss B. Whitehead was appointed a clerk in the Crown Land office.

The proposed apportionment of the assessment for the Patriotic Fund was considered on the recommendation of the provincial committee. It was decided to send a copy to each city, town and municipality affected and to have the matter finally disposed of at a meeting of the government to be held at Fredericton on January 2nd.

country. It is this that will attract immigrants, and the right type of brainy man too. It is this which will help so much to swell the revenue of the country after the war."

At the conclusion of his address the mayor thanked Mr. Kennedy on behalf of the city and of the manufacturers and merchants present for the splendid talk he had given and voiced the hope that all would benefit by the exhibit.

The chairman proposed a toast to the "King" and the gathering dispersed after the singing of the National Anthem.

VESSEL ON WHICH 26TH CROSSED ATLANTIC, SUNK

Anchor Liner Caledonia Believed to Have Been Sunk, Says Announcement Made at Lloyd's.

London, Dec. 8.—The Anchor line steamship Caledonia, of 9,223 tons gross, is believed to have been sunk, says an announcement made today at Lloyd's shipping agency.

The Caledonia has for some time been in the service of the British government. The vessel was 500 feet long, 58 feet beam and 33 feet deep. She was built at Glasgow in 1904.

The Caledonia was formerly in the passenger service between New York and Glasgow, one of the crack ships of the Anchor Line fleet. The local offices of the line said today that they had heard nothing of the vessel since she was commandeered for government service in August, 1914.

They had no word of her destination, other than contained in press despatches. The ship is registered as commanded by Captain Blakie.

(News-Editor's Note.—The Caledonia was the steamship which carried the 26th Battalion which left St. John on June 13th, 1915, for Liverpool.)

MANY WOUNDED HEROES HERE ON CORINTHIAN

One Casualty During the Voyage — Several Soldiers Sorely Wounded, but are Hopeful.

Shortly before five o'clock last evening the S. S. Corinthian on which was a party of returned men docked at her berth on the West Side. The only casualty to mar a pleasant voyage was the death of one of the returning soldiers, Private H. Caswell of Edmonton. The steamer had been out four days when the young man, who was subject to epileptic fits, died in one of them.

Besides the officers, she had on her passenger list sixty-three men for western points, and six for the Maritime Provinces. Major Osborne was the officer commanding. He enlisted in the 5th Regiment of the C. M. R., Major T. E. Powers of 3rd Division

Headquarters, was the only St. John officer to arrive.

Captain O'Hagan of Calgary was also a passenger. Nursing Sister Miss M. E. Smith of Parrsboro was a passenger, but as she was in charge of the men who required medical care, she went with the party as far as Quebec. She will return to her home in Parrsboro on furlough.

The party was met by the returned soldiers' reception committee, as well as several ladies, representing the different associations in the city.

The men who are to be discharged from the depot in St. John and who live in the Maritime Provinces are L. McArthur, Carterbury, and W. H. Hugard, Norton, both of the 115th Battalion; R. Dunsworth, 40th Battalion, Halifax, N. S.; A. Call, Moncton, N. B.; 146th Battalion; J. C. Craine, 40th Battalion, Fredericton, and W. G. Brisson of the 145th Battalion, Moncton.

Captain O'Hagan, who enlisted in Ontario in the 2nd Battalion, said that he was sure that the Germans wanted peace now, but that this fight would have to be fought all over again if peace was declared. He has been in France for nearly two years. He stated that the Canadians had made an enviable name, and that there were no soldiers at the front who were

CANADA MUST PREPARE TO COMPETE WITH HUNS FOR MARKETS OF WORLD

Message Brought by H. Kershaw in Charge of Enemy 'Samples Exhibit.'

DINNER AT UNION CLUB LAST NIGHT

Maritime Provinces Will Have Great Opportunity For Trade After War.

The Board of Trade gave a dinner last night at the Union Club to H. Kershaw and A. W. Kennedy, who are in the city with the exhibit of enemy samples, to which representatives of the business houses and manufacturing interests had been invited.

Mr. Kershaw explained very fully the reasons why this exhibit had been forwarded up by the British Board of Trade, and why at the suggestion of Sir George Foster it had been sent to Canada.

The president of the Board of Trade A. H. Wetmore, occupied the chair, and on his left Mr. Kershaw, and on his right Mr. Kennedy. Those present were: A. H. Wetmore, Mayor Hayes, Capt. E. C. Elkin, A. M. Belding, G. W. Campbell, John Keeffe, F. L. Peters, H. C. Schofield, F. B. Ellis, R. B. Emerson, W. F. Burditt, W. K. Ganong, J. Hunter White, W. F. Barnaby, J. B. Cudlip, R. D. Paterson, F. E. Marvin, J. P. Gregory, John McAvity, Alex. Wilson, L. W. Simms, George H. Waring, H. R. Sturdee, Josiah Fowler and R. E. Armstrong.

After the good things had been disposed of the chairman introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Kershaw.

On rising to speak Mr. Kershaw was greeted with cheers. He said he was very glad to have the privilege of speaking to the merchants and manufacturers of St. John in connection with the exhibit of enemy samples.

After Sir George Foster had been instrumental in bringing to Canada. This exhibit had been gathered from all over the globe and had been exhibited in the United Kingdom before being brought to Canada. The object was to stimulate the manufacture and exportation of goods which Germany had been sending to various countries before the war. A large number of the exhibits were such as he would not advise any self-respecting country to manufacture, but included in the lot were several lines which it would pay our people to undertake.

He impressed upon those present that if the British Empire was to prevent the German empire from imposing its yoke of selfishness on law-abiding nations it was necessary to prepare for the industrial war to come just as soon as peace was declared. Germany was already preparing for that day, and if the British Empire was not to be beaten it also must be prepared. When the war stopped machinery now used in making munitions would lie idle unless it was put to other use, and now was the time to get ready to use it for other purposes. He advocated sending to Ottawa and obtaining information in regard to countries to which each individual could send his particular requirements of the proposed market.

He referred to the very vast possibilities of the Maritime Provinces and in this connection said: "And what vast possibilities there are for conducting a world trade from the great Maritime Provinces! Look at the map and observe that St. John to Europe alone lies almost 4000 miles nearer than New York, almost 200 miles nearer than Boston and about 150 miles nearer than Portland. New Brunswick itself is nearly as large as Scotland. There are mineral deposits here, and coal lies conveniently near. Believe me, Canada is destined to become a great manufacturing

THE CHEMUNG SUNK WITH HER FLAG FLYING

Stars and Stripes at the Masthead as she Plunged Beneath the Waves—Captain Tells His Story.

Paris, Dec. 8.—"The Chemung went down with the American flag flying, all right," said Captain John J. Duffy, master of the steamer Chemung, which was sunk by a submarine off the coast of Spain Nov. 28, to the Associated Press today. "But I had no argument over the flag with the Austrian submarine commander."

Captain Duffy was in Paris for a few hours today on his way to England, whence he will sail for the United States.

"We were fired on after I had hoisted a signal that I was stopping," said the Chemung's master. "He had been on the lookout for submarines, and had determined to stop as soon as we were signalled. Therefore, when the first gun was fired our signal that we were stopping went up. Nevertheless a shell fired afterwards struck our bows."

"When the ship was struck by the torpedo our boats were not out of range of the debris, which shot up in the air for a thousand feet and fell all around us. It was a lucky chance no one was hurt."

"Third Officer Jacobson, who went to the submarine with the ship's papers, says the Austrians first intended to make me a prisoner. But he said to them: 'Don't. The captain is a very good soldier.' I was not taken aboard the submarine but Jacobson said she was of a very large type, being 170 feet long, he guessed. He said she had a high bow like a yacht not like the bow of an ordinary submarine."

London, Dec. 8.—The admiralty announced tonight that a report had been received that a disguised armed German vessel of mercantile type was sighted in the North Atlantic on December 4. No further information has been received concerning the vessel's whereabouts, the admiralty adds.